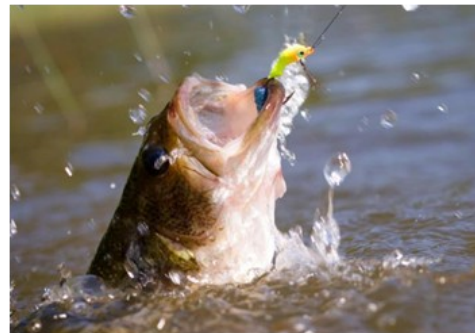




Largemouth Bass Consumption Advisory

ViswaTej Attili, Water Quality Coordinator (785) 486-2601 x7

Fish tissue contaminant monitoring was conducted in the Delaware River in 2008 and 2009 on bottom feeder Catfish and the values for both organic chemicals and Mercury were within the safe limit. But, high concentrations of Mercury were found in the Largemouth Bass in the two ponds that were sampled in October 2012. It is not safe to regularly eat Largemouth Bass from any ponds on the Kickapoo Nation.



The fish tissue contaminant sampling was conducted in Kickapoo Nation on two ponds in October 2012 by EPA Region 7 staff. Largemouth Bass samples were collected from the K-20 pond (between Goldfinch Rd and Hazelnut Rd; south of K-20) and another pond located at the corner of Falcon Road and K-20.

The results from the EPA laboratory showed that all the organic chemical values were below the level of acceptable risk. But the Mercury levels are **five** times more than the safe levels for human consumption (based on average adult consuming fish 16 ounce fish per week). **The maximum allowable Largemouth Bass meal from these two ponds by an adult weighing 200 pounds is 14.5 ounces (0.9 pounds) per month.** Mercury tends to accumulate in predatory fish to a greater extent than in bottom-feeding fish. Fish containing high levels of Mercury may harm an unborn baby or young child's developing nervous system. Therefore, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are advising women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children to avoid fish that are high in Mercury.

Summer Gardening Here and Off Yonder

Sonny Fee, Solid Waste Coordinator (785) 486-2601 x4



I went to the Iowa Tribe to help plant berry bushes with elder Pete Fee. Richard Minnger was the head planter, along with Tribal Council Members Tony Fee and Tim Rhod. Dawane Scates and my youngest son Damian also lent a hand.

We planted blueberry, blackberry and raspberry bushes by the Tribe's walking trails. It was a great learning experience that I hope to use one day here with the Kickapoo Tribe.

Meanwhile, back here on the Kickapoo rez, I am finished tilling gardens for the season. We served 48 community members, tilling a total of 56 gardens.



The Green Clan

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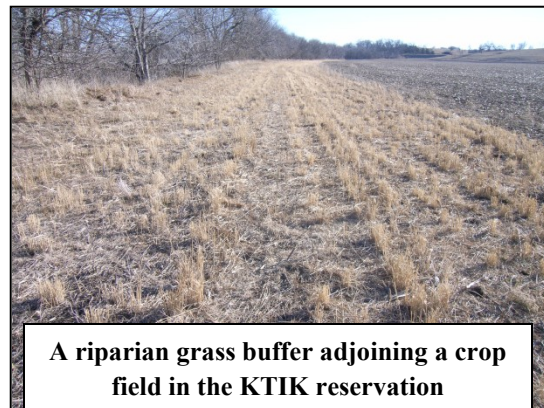
Working Together for a Better Community!

**Do you have suggestions about
how we can improve our
newsletter? Let us know!**

Riparian Buffers Provide Multiple Benefits

By Kerry Wedel, Watershed Coordinator, 486-2601 3

“Riparian” refers to areas adjoining or relating to a natural body of water. A riparian buffer is an area of natural or planted vegetation adjoining streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands and other water bodies. Riparian buffer vegetation can include native or adapted grasses, forbs (i.e. wildflowers), shrubs and trees.



A riparian grass buffer adjoining a crop field in the KTIK reservation

Riparian buffers help protect water bodies from polluted runoff from parking lots, lawns, construction sites, cropland and other land surfaces. Figure 1 shows how this is accomplished.

In addition to water quality benefits, vegetative buffers provide habitat for many wildlife species, protect stream banks and shorelines from excessive erosion, prevent flood damage, visually enhance the surrounding landscape, and can provide educational and recreational opportunities. Forested buffers can also be managed for timber and firewood.

Have You Spotted This Butterfly On the Rez?

By Mike Kelley, Brownfields Coordinator, 486-2601 x6



Regal Fritillary (Female)



Regal Fritillary Caterpillar



Regal (Fritillary) Male

This is the Regal Fritillary Butterfly. Because of the destruction of its native habitat, this species is currently listed as having a high risk of endangerment. If you spot one on the reservation please make note of the general location and contact the Kickapoo Environmental Office.